

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the November 18, 2005 non-final Office Action. Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 1, 3, and 9 will have been amended, Claim 8 will have been canceled, and Claims 1-7 and 9-12 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to the Objection of the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to on the basis that “Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.” The Examiner has required that Figures 1 and 2 be corrected in response to the November 18, 2005 non-final Office Action.

Applicant has amended each of Figures 1 and 2, i.e., drawing sheets 1/4 to include the legend “PRIOR ART”. As referred to above, the attached drawing sheet 1/4 replaces original Figures 1 and 2. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is now moot and should be withdrawn

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, on the basis that Claim 3 is “indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.” More specifically, the Examiner urges that it is unclear what claim Claim 3 depends from.

Applicant has amended Claim 3 to obviate this rejection.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or (e)

Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 10-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or (e) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,416,210 to Uchida. Applicant traverses this rejection.

As set forth below, the Examiner has indicated the allowability of the subject matter introduced in original dependent Claims 8 and 9 if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations introduced in objected to original dependent Claim 8. Applicant has also amended original dependent Claim 9 to depend from amended Claim 1. As such, Claims 1-2, 4-7, and 10-12, as well as Claim 3, are distinguished over the applied reference of Uchida.

Accordingly, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or (e) should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 9 have been objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above, Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to original dependent Claim 8, whereas original dependent Claim 9 has been amended

to depend from amended Claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

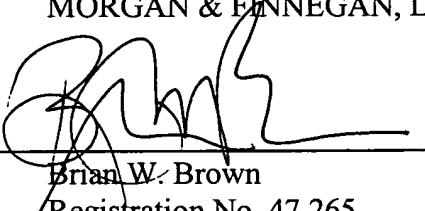
Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required for filing this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4842.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

By: 

Brian W. Brown

Registration No. 47,265

(202) 857-7887 Telephone

(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Dated: January 18, 2006

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
Three World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile

AMENDMENTS TO DRAWINGS

**The attached drawing sheets 1/4 include changes to Figures 1 and 2.
These sheets replace original Figures 1 and 2, original drawing sheet.**

Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/4.